

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR BLACK DRUM

Commercial Atlantic Ocean Fishery

What will this proposal do?

It will correct the minimum size for the commercial black drum fishery in the Atlantic Ocean.

Why is this change necessary?

When the commercial fishery for the Chesapeake Bay was opened the black drum regulation was reorganized. The 16 inch minimum size for the Atlantic Ocean black drum commercial fishery was inadvertently deleted when the regulation was reorganized. The 16 inch minimum size limit for that fishery has been in place since adoption of black drum regulations in 1994. The department, to be in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Black Drum, must re-establish the minimum size limit.

This is a housekeeping change that will ensure our compliance with the management plan.

Who will this affect?

Commercial harvesters that harvest black drum from the Atlantic Ocean.

When will this be effective?

The change is already effective. The department fixed the error with a [public notice](#). Changing the regulation will make it clear for everyone so that there are not different rules in different locations.

Has this change be discussed with Advisory Commissions?

Yes. The change was scoped at the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting on July 23, 2019 and at the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting on July 25, 2019. The commissioners did not have comments about the change.